

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of monitoring the progression of diabetes from a first timepoint to a later timepoint, said method comprising the steps:
providing a first biological sample obtained at the first timepoint,
measuring the concentration of glycated insulin in said biological sample,
providing a second biological sample obtained at the later timepoint,
measuring the concentration of glycated insulin in said second biological samples
sample, and
determining the difference in concentration of glycated insulin between the first and second biological samples, wherein a lower concentration at the second timepoint is indicative of at least one of increased disease severity and/or loss of control of blood glucose.
2. (currently amended) A method of early diagnosis of diabetes in an individual, the method comprising the steps:
providing a biological sample in which glucose levels are within a normal range from said individual, and
measuring the concentration of glycated insulin in the biological sample,
wherein the presence of glycated insulin at a concentration greater than a predetermined minimum is indicative of the presence of diabetes.
3. (currently amended) A method of predicting the onset of diabetes in an individual, the method including the steps of[[;]]:
providing a biological sample from said individual, and
measuring the concentration of glycated insulin in the biological sample,

wherein the presence of glycated insulin at a concentration greater than a predetermined minimum is indicative of predisposition to diabetes.

4. (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the concentration of glucose in the biological sample is within the normal range.
5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, ~~or claim 4~~ wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 11.1 mmol/l in a random plasma sample.
6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~ wherein said predetermined minimum concentration is the concentration of glycated insulin measured in a sample from the same individual at an earlier timepoint.
7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~, wherein said predetermined minimum concentration of glycated insulin in a ~~non-fasted~~ non-fasted sample is at least 20 pmol/l.
8. (currently amended) The A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein glycated insulin in the sample is measured by means of radioimmunoassay (~~RIA~~).
9. (canceled).
10. (canceled).
11. (currently amended) An *in vitro* assay method for detecting diabetes or the predisposition to diabetes by determining the presence of glycated insulin in a biological sample, in which glucose levels are normal, said assay method comprising the steps: providing a biological sample; and determining whether the concentration of glycated insulin in the biological sample is at least 20 pmol/l;

wherein the presence of glycated insulin at a concentration greater than 20 pmol/l is indicative of diabetes or predisposition to diabetes.

12. (new) The method according to claim 4 wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 11.1 mmol/l in a random plasma sample.
13. (new) The method according to 3 wherein said predetermined minimum concentration is the concentration of glycated insulin measured in a sample from the same individual at an earlier timepoint.
14. (new) The method according to 4 wherein said predetermined minimum concentration is the concentration of glycated insulin measured in a sample from the same individual at an earlier timepoint.
15. (new) The method according to 5 wherein said predetermined minimum concentration is the concentration of glycated insulin measured in a sample from the same individual at an earlier timepoint.
16. (new) The method according to 3, wherein said predetermined minimum concentration of glycated insulin in a non fasted sample is at least 20 pmol/l.
17. (new) The method according to 4, wherein said predetermined minimum concentration of glycated insulin in a non fasted sample is at least 20 pmol/l.
18. (new) The method according to 5, wherein said predetermined minimum concentration of glycated insulin in a non fasted sample is at least 20 pmol/l.
19. (new) The method according to 6, wherein said predetermined minimum concentration of glycated insulin in a non fasted sample is at least 20 pmol/l.

20. (new) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein glycated insulin in the sample is measured by means of radioimmunoassay.
21. (new) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein glycated insulin in the sample is measured by means of radioimmunoassay